

# Mayflower Guard

## Arms, Armor, and Apparel Procurement Guide

This guide has been prepared for those individuals who are considering joining the Mayflower Guard and becoming part of a living history program of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The information in this guide is based on research and interaction with reenactor group such as the New Plimmoth Gard. We have identified vendors where you can purchase period appropriate gear at reasonable prices. Each of these vendors have been used to purchase arms, armor, and/or apparel. It is important to remember is that the period for the Mayflower Guard is 1620/1621 therefore the arms, armor, and clothing for members of the guard shall be appropriate for that period.

### Arms and Armor

When the Pilgrims landed the records of their early expeditions ashore indicate that all men had armor, swords, and muskets. The standard armor of the day was the Pikeman's armor. The most common helmet used by early English settlers both in Jamestown and Plymouth known as a Cabasset. The swords that were carried were of two types, the thrusting rapier and the two-edged cutting sword. Examples of each are to be found in Pilgrim Hall Museum, Miles Standish's rapier, and Governor John Carver's sword. The most common musket was the matchlock. The ammunition for the matchlock was carried by a bandelier worn over the shoulder with 12 vessels containing powder called apostles attached.

### *Pikeman's Armor*

The most reliable source for Pikeman's armor is Re-Enactment Supplies in the United Kingdom. They keep a good supply of standard sizes in stock. The item is listed as 17th Century Back & Breastplate with Removable Tassets. (209.99 GBP British Pounds) \* Re-Enactment Supplies also carries many other items that can be purchased as well such as shoes, bandelier and apostles, and swords. It should be noted the do the exchange rate the price in US Dollars can change almost daily therefore the US price is not listed here. [www.re-enactmemntssupplises.co.uk](http://www.re-enactmemntssupplises.co.uk).

*\*Note that the prices quoted for this vendor are in GBP British Pounds. Given the variation in exchange rate which can change almost daily no price is listed in USD US Dollars'*

### *Cabasset Helmet*

The least expensive cabasset helmet is from India Overseas Trading listed as Cabasset Armor Helmet (IOA-IR80608) (\$28.13) it can be order from [www.Opentip.com](http://www.Opentip.com)..

Note the helmet may run large and you may want a helmet liner which is sold separately. Some use a knitted Monmouth Cap instead of a liner.

*Note: in the 17<sup>th</sup> century armor was normally blackened or blued. Instructions on blackening your armor can found on YouTube on the Maryland Mayflower Channel. .*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz0Psb0EPgk>

### *Swords*

There are two sources for swords that have been used with satisfactory results Therion Arms in Del Valle, TX and Kult of Athena in Illinois. While Miles Standish carried a rapier, most the Pilgrims used a cutting type sword which was much more practical for the American wilderness. The prices vary on your choice of sword. The Practical Mortuary Sword or the Munich Town Guard Sword from Therion Arms (\$250/\$260) is one choice while English Half-Basket Hanger (\$100.95) from Kult of the Athena is another excellent choice especially when wearing armor. Kult of Athena also has the Munich Town Guard Sword as well.

[www.therioarms.com](http://www.therioarms.com) and [www.kultofathena.com](http://www.kultofathena.com).

### *Sword Belts and Baldric*

Swords were carried either with the over the shoulder baldric (\$60) or with a narrow sword belt worn around the waist (\$120). If one is wearing Pikeman's armor, the belt on the armor can serve as the sword belt with adding only what is known as a frog to hold the sword. If one chooses such a frog it should be one where the sword is carried at an angle (\$15). One may also choose a belt if one is also wearing a bandelier and apostles. Both Kult of Athena and Thereon Arms have sword belts and baldrics. St. Augustine Textiles also has a very nice narrow sword belt

[www.therioarms.com](http://www.therioarms.com) , [www.kultofathena.com](http://www.kultofathena.com), [www.stagustinetextiles.com](http://www.stagustinetextiles.com)

### *Musket*

The most common musket used by the Pilgrims was the Matchlock Musket. There are many sources for Matchlock Muskets. Since the Mayflower Guard will be using non-firing muskets the recommended source to meet this requirement and the least expense (\$549) is Access Heritage, Inc. in Ottawa Canada.

[www.militaryheritage.com](http://www.militaryheritage.com)

### *Bandelier & Apostle*

There are multiple sources for bandeliers & apostles at all approximately the same price (\$150)

Loyalist Arms from Harriotfield Nova Scotia, Canada  
[www.loyalistarmsca/mainpage.php](http://www.loyalistarmsca/mainpage.php)

Re-Enactment Supplies [www.re-enactment-supplies.co.uk](http://www.re-enactment-supplies.co.uk)  
Skye's Sutlery in Claremont, VA. [www.sykesutler.com](http://www.sykesutler.com)

## **Apparel**

There were no prescribed uniforms worn by the Pilgrims. They would have worn their ordinary clothing or what could be considered civilian attire rather than a uniform. There are resources available to assist any member who wants their own apparel.

### *Make Your Own*

There are historically accurate patterns available for individuals who like to sew and make their own period appropriate apparel. Reconstructing History has patterns for Women's English Jackets and Petticote pattern #201. Their 16thc Common Man's Doublet and Breeches pattern # 207 would be the choice for men. These patterns can be ordered at: <http://store.reconstructinghistory.com> There are even patterns for children's clothing as well.

### *Purchase*

For those that do not sew or know someone who does, there are vendors that are useful resources for readymade period appropriate apparel.

### *Doublets & Breeches/Venetians*

There are sources that have been used for men's doublets and breeches. It should be noted that 17<sup>th</sup> century breeches were also known as venetians.

1. Sally Green Historical Costumes is the U.K.'s largest supplier of what they refer to as "off the peg" costumes for seventeenth century re-enactment. They stock significant amounts of many items in most sizes, except where specified. They have both men's and women's clothing that are mostly made of wool. When measuring the waist, it should be done at the belly button as the breeches were worn high. It is highly recommended that you call and place your order by phone and discuss the order with an actual person at Sally Green. Doublet (98 GBP British Pounds) Breeches (85 GBP British Pounds)

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Sally Green Historical Costumes

1 Lyng Lane

North Lopham

Norfolk IP22 2HR

UK

Phone: +44 1953 681 676 Website: [http:// www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php](http://www.sallygreen.co.uk/sg-contact.php)

2. Saint Augustine Textiles specializes in clothing for reenactors of a variety of periods. They do carry 17<sup>th</sup> Century clothing that is appropriate for the 1620 period for both men and women. Their men's doublet that is appropriate for 1620 is their 16<sup>th</sup> century doublet rather than the 17<sup>th</sup> century doublet. They offer their appeal in cotton, linen and wool in a variety of period appropriate colors. The price varies based on the material chosen. Doublet (\$120) cotton canvas, (\$150) linen, (\$200) wool. Breeches/Venetians (\$75) cotton canvas, (\$85) linen, (\$200) wool.

Jon & Gidget Williams

58 St. George St.

St. Augustine, Florida

Phone: (904) 315-0610

Fax : (904) 794-1613

E-Mail [sarjuan@aol.com](mailto:sarjuan@aol.com). Website: <http://staugustinetextiles.com/>

3. Syke's Sutlery "Purveyors of Fine Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Goods" Syke's Sutlery is a Virginia based company that provides a variety of period appropriate apparel that ideal for pilgrims. Their venetians/breeches are in standard sizes. Their doublets for men and bodices for women are made to measure but other items available in standard sizes.

Syke's Sutlery

P.O. Box 335

Claremont, VA 23899

Email: [sykesutler@wildblue.net](mailto:sykesutler@wildblue.net) Website: [www.sykesutler.com](http://www.sykesutler.com)

### *Shirts and Socks*

All three of the above vendors have shirts and socks that are appropriate and are similar in price at about \$45 for shirts and \$12 for socks. Sykes has the largest variety. Website: [www.sykesutler.co](http://www.sykesutler.co)

### *Shoes*

Latchet shoes were what was commonly worn by both men and women in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are three vendors that provide latchet shoes that have been used. The common colors were black and brown. Availability can be problematic for some vendors depending on size and color.

1. Burnley & Trowbride Co. Williamsburg, VA (\$115)  
[www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com](http://www.burnleyandtrowgridge.com)
2. Grab the World (\$85) [www.garbtheworld.com/items/periodshoes.shtml](http://www.garbtheworld.com/items/periodshoes.shtml)
3. Viking Leathercraft (\$59.99) [www.vikingleathercrafts.com](http://www.vikingleathercrafts.com)

### *Hats*

There were two types of men's hats that were worn by the pilgrims the brimmed felt hat and the wool flat hat. Either of these types of hats are appropriate. The best source of the brimmed felt hat is from Plimoth Plantation Museum Shop [www.plimoth.com/collections/historical-clothing-accessories](http://www.plimoth.com/collections/historical-clothing-accessories) (\$62.99). For the wool flat hat, the best source is Sykes Sutlering. These flat hats come in a variety of colors. Sykes also carries Monmouth Caps which make excellent helmet liners. [www.sykesutler.com](http://www.sykesutler.com) (\$15)